

House Resolution 1452

By: Representatives Gardner of the 57th, Sheldon of the 105th, Harbin of the 118th, Buckner of the 130th, Smith of the 131st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2008, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Day
2 in Georgia; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or "ALS," is better known as Lou Gehrig's
4 disease; and

5 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell
6 bodies of lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

7 WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially
8 those of the extremities; and

9 WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking,
10 and breathing; and

11 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional
12 quadriplegic; and

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14 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so that the patient remains alert
15 and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued
16 deterioration and death; and

17 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from
18 the time of diagnosis; and

19 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a 50 percent or greater risk of
20 developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and

21 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure; and

1 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day in Georgia increases the public's
2 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease
3 has not only on the patient but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the
4 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Sonny Perdue has proclaimed February 27, 2008, as Amyotrophic
6 Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Day in Georgia.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body recognize February 27, 2008, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
9 Awareness Day in Georgia.

10 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby
11 authorized and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the ALS
12 Association of Georgia.